

**WARRANT
TOWN OF ABINGTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
with Finance Committee Recommendations**

PLYMOUTH, SS

To either of the Constables of the Town of Abington ...

GREETINGS. In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, who are qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at:

**Abington High School
201 Richard Francis Gliniewicz Way
In Precinct Five in Said Abington,
On Monday, The 3rd of April 2023, At 7:00 In the Evening**

Article 1 - Snow and Ice Costs: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to cover the FY2023 snow and ice deficit or take any other action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

**► The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article,
and that the sum of \$264,000.00 be transferred from Free Cash to fund this article**

Town Manager comment: This is an annual article to authorize the payment of the balance due for snow & ice expenses for the town, after totaling all expenses known to date.

Article 2 - Payment of Prior Year's Bill: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$478.04 to pay outstanding prior year bills or take any other action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

**► The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article,
and that the sum of \$478.04 be transferred from Free Cash to fund this article**

Town Manager comment: This article authorizes the payment of any bills or invoices received after June 30th of last year (the end of the fiscal year) for Town expenses and/or services rendered to the Town prior to that date.

Article 3 - Payment of Sick Leave Buy Back: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$35,000 to pay for Sick Leave Buy Back for retiring Water Department employees, with a like amount to be funded by Rockland, or take any other action relative thereto.

By Water Department

**► The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article as presented,
and that the sum of \$35,000.00 be transferred from the Water Receipts Reserved fund**

Town Manager comment: The Water Department is required by contract to "buy back" the unused sick time of certain retiring Water Department employees.

Article 4 - FY 2024 Operating Budget: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate from departmental receipts such sums as necessary to defray salaries and expenses of the Town for the fiscal year 2024, including without limitation, enterprise and special revenue funds, all as set forth in the attached handout entitled “Proposed FY2024 Town Budget”, or take any other action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

**► The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article
(detailed Motion to be presented at Town Meeting)**

TM Comments: We are presenting a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which starts on July 1st. A summary of the budget, our ability to expand certain services, investments in our infrastructure and equipment, and our efforts to control costs will be presented at Town Meeting prior to your vote.

Article 5 - Funding of Capital Plan: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, borrow, lease/purchase or otherwise provide for the following capital items and all costs incidental or related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

CAPITAL PLAN			
	DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	FUNDING SOURCE
A	POLICE DEPARTMENT:		
	1. Purchase & equip 3 cruisers	\$ 167,000	Free Cash
	TOTAL	\$ 167,000	
B	DEPT of PUBLIC WORKS:		
	1. Replace 1997 Ford F350, purchase and equip	\$ 75,000	Free Cash
	2. Rewire Traffic Lights Plymouth St & Centre Ave	\$ 210,000	
	TOTAL	\$ 285,000	
C	WATER DEPARTMENT:		
	1. Cross Connections	\$ 30,000	Water Undesignated Fund Balance (with a like amount to be funded by Rockland)
	2. Meter Replacements	\$ 50,000	
	3. R450 Meter Project	\$ 25,000	
	4. Hydrant Replacement	\$ 20,000	
	5. Myers Ave. Carbon Media Replacement	\$ 50,000	
	6. Gravity Filter Rehabilitation	\$ 60,000	
	7. ECO Tube Removal	\$ 50,000	
	8. Residuals Management Program	\$ 150,000	
	9. Filter and Pump Upgrades	\$ 75,000	
	10. Treatment Plant Infrastructure	\$ 100,000	
	11. Security Safety Maintenance	\$ 60,000	
	12. IT Computer Upgrades	\$ 20,000	
	13. Paving and Road Repairs	\$ 15,000	
	TOTAL	\$ 705,000	
D	SEWER DEPARTMENT:		
	1. Replace Chestnut St. Generator, purchase and install	\$ 70,000	Sewer Retained Earnings
	2. Overhaul Walnut St Pump Station	\$ 400,000	
	3. Replace 2013 Utility Truck, purchase and equip	\$ 75,000	
	TOTAL	\$ 545,000	

E	PARK and RECREATION DEPT:		
	1. Replace Fence at Island Grove Pond (along Central St.)	\$ 50,000	Free Cash
	2. Install Fencing at Arnold Park (playground & basketball court)	\$ 60,000	
	3. Replace 2 existing mowers, purchase and equip	\$ 100,000	
	4. Replace Truck Bed (2001 International 4700), purchase & equip	\$ 22,000	
	5. Purchase boom mower attachment for Bombardier	\$ 45,000	
	TOTAL	\$ 277,000	
F	FIRE DEPARTMENT:		
	1. Purchase and equip new Ambulance	\$ 485,000	Borrow
	TOTAL	\$ 485,000	
G	SCHOOL DEPT:		
	1. Purchase Laptops	\$ 200,000	Free Cash
	2. Replace Gym Fire Escape at Frolio Building	\$ 30,000	
	3. Electrical Switch Gear Replacement at Frolio Building	\$ 42,000	
	4. Resurfacing Beaver Brook Gymnasium Floor	\$ 42,000	
	5. Replace Walk-in Cooler & Freezer at Woodsdale School	\$ 105,000	
	TOTAL	\$ 419,000	
	Total Funded by Free Cash:	\$ 1,633,000	
	Total Funded by Water/Sewer Revenues:	\$ 1,250,000	
	CAPITAL PLAN TOTAL	\$ 2,883,000	

By Town Manager

► **The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article as presented**

TM Comments: Our town government reviews our capital needs several times each year and we strive to fund those items with the highest priority and those which provide the most benefits to our residents of various ages. We continue to maximize the use of our available funds, by successfully securing an increasing amount of grant monies, using available federal and state aid funds within their restrictive use limitations, and by continuing to enhance our maintenance programs. Your vote to support of this Capital Plan will allow us to invest in the above-listed capital needs and to implement the described improvements.

Article 6 - Community Preservation Budget: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the report of the Community Preservation Committee for the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from the Community Preservation Fund Estimated Annual Revenues for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, reserve allocations as required, for the specific projects as presented, and for all other necessary and proper expenses for the fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto.

<u>PROPOSED COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET for FY24</u>		
AVAILABLE CPA FUNDING SOURCES:		
Balance Held in CPA Reserve Fund:		\$ 431,993
Anticipated Interest Income:	\$ 1,000	
Anticipated FY24 Local CPA Revenue:	\$ 464,207	
Anticipated FY24 State CPA Revenue:	\$ 93,000	
Subtotal Anticipated Revenue:		\$ 558,207
Total Available Funds:		\$ 990,200

PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS	AMOUNT	FUNDING SOURCE
A. Community Preservation Expense (5%)	\$ 28,000	All items will be funded by FY24 CPA Revenue
B. Open Space / Recreation (minimum 10%)		
1. Open Space / Recreation Plan	\$ 38,500	
2. Green Wave Connector Trail Design	\$ 25,000	
3. Griffins Dairy Fence Posts	\$ 23,100	
C. Historical Resources (minimum 10%)		
1. Interpretive Historical Signs	\$ 9,620	
2. Island Grove Pavilion Repairs	\$ 50,000	
3. Historical Inventory Grant Match	\$ 20,000	
4. Island Grove Bridge Design	\$ 70,000	
D. Housing (minimum 10%)		
1. Affordable Housing Trust	\$ 100,000	
2. Housing Trust Action Plan	\$ 20,000	
Total Proposed FY24 CPA Expenditures:	\$ 384,220	
Undesignated FY24 Revenue to Add to Reserve Fund:	\$ 173,987	
Anticipated New Balance to be Held in Reserve Fund:		\$ 605,980

By Community Preservation Committee

► The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article as presented

TM Comments: Our Community Preservation Committee continues to invest its revenues into items proposed by residents and our town departments which might not otherwise be funded with tax dollars. These Community Preservation funds can only be used for open space/recreation, historical preservation and community housing investments, and your vote to approve this article will authorize the above expenditures during the coming year.

Article 7 - Annual Funding of Student Transportation: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$16,016 for student transportation services for Abington students attending out-of-district vocational schools as non-resident students for the 2023-2024 school year, or take any other action relative thereto.

By School Committee

**► The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article,
and to raise & appropriate \$16,106.00 to fund this article**

TM Comments: This is an annual article which must be voted separately from our School Budget (which was included in the Operating Budget article above), and it authorizes the Town to pay for transportation services for Abington students who will be attending such schools as Southeastern Regional VoTech in South Easton and the Norfolk Agricultural School in Walpole.

Article 8 - Health Imperative Funding: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$5,000 to fund the Health Imperative violence prevention and intervention program for services provided to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence in FY2024 or take any other action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

- ▶ **The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article,
and to raise & appropriate \$5,000.00 to fund this article**

TM Comments: This is an annual article to support services which benefit Abington residents in need.

Article 9 - Arc of the South Shore Funding: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$2,500 to fund the Arc of the South Shore for services provided to Abington residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Fiscal Year 2024 or take any other action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

- ▶ **The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article,
and to raise & appropriate \$2,500.00 to fund this article**

TM Comments: This also is an annual article to support services which benefit Abington residents in need.

Article 10 - Purchase of Vacant Land off Central Street: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift, purchase or eminent domain, a fee simple interest in the property located at 199 Central Street, Map 32 Lot 1, for general municipal purposes, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$_____ to fund said acquisition, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and execute any and all documents and instruments as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote, or take any other action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

- ▶ **The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article, and to borrow \$175,000.00 to fund this article.
This land is located next to our Police Station (on its east side) and is presently vacant.
Combining this land with our existing town-owned land on Central Street will provide our Town with an increased ability to invest in long-term municipal planning for the needs of our community in future decades.
A detailed motion will be presented at Town Meeting.**

TM Comments: The house that used to be located on this property was torn down a few years ago pursuant to a Court Order due to significant safety and fire hazard issues. The parcel contains 1.4 acres of land and sits adjacent to our Police & DPW facilities. This article seeks to authorize the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen to enter into negotiations to purchase the property or alternatively to take it by eminent domain. We believe this would be a wise purchase for the Town while the property is vacant.

Article 11 - Funding of Roadway Infrastructure Improvement Projects: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$500,000 to pay costs of planning, engineering, design, equipping, and construction costs for the replacement, repair, upgrade and regrading for subsurface structures and road surfaces to maintain compliance with best practices for stormwater management and treatment on the following roadways: Chapel Street, Cliff Street, Lake Street, Wilson Place, Hersey Lane, Shaw Avenue, Washington Street from Adams Street to Bedford Street, and Bicknell Hill Road, and any and all other costs incidental or related to the project, and to take any other action relative thereto.

By Department of Public Works

► **The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article,
and to fund this article with \$500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from Plymouth County.**

TM Comments: This article will authorize and support the Town's efforts to seek an award of additional federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to pay for this project. ARPA funding will allow the Town to proceed with road repair projects on the above-listed streets, which represent some of our streets in most need of repair and which will also provide an immediate improvement to our required stormwater management compliance efforts. It is our intention to seek additional funding at future Town Meetings to continue to address the quality of our roadways and drainage systems.

Article 12 - Accepting Marshfield into the SSVT District: To see if the town will approve the amended South Shore Regional Vocational School District regional agreement which is on file in the Town Clerk's office for the purpose of accepting the Town of Marshfield as a new member, with all other provisions of said agreement to remain in effect, or take any other action relative thereto.

By South Shore Regional Vocational School Committee

► **The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article as presented**

TM Comments: By approving this article, the Town would welcome Marshfield as the 9th town to become a member of the South Shore Regional School District, thus allowing students from Marshfield to enroll at this school.

Article 13 - Funding of Union Contracts: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds for the first year of the collective bargaining agreement with the Abington Firefighters Local 2080 the sum of \$_____; and further to approve \$_____ for the first year of the collective bargaining agreement with the Abington Police Union MassCop Local 476; and further to approve \$_____ for the first year of the collective bargaining agreement with the Abington Library Staff Association Local 4928; or take any other action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

The Finance Committee voted to make no recommendation until more information becomes available.

TM Comments: Approval of this article will fund the first year of the new Police, Fire and Library union contracts, which were recently negotiated and finalized with the Town. Final dollar amounts will be available immediately after the Board of Selectmen votes to ratify the new contracts at their 3/27/23 meeting.

Article 14 - Local Option To Allow a Veteran Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 59 section 5N, which authorizes the Board of Selectman to establish a Veteran Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program, or take any action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

► **The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article as presented**

TM Comments: By approving this article, the Town will be able to provide this additional benefit to any Veteran (or the spouse of a deceased or disabled Veteran) who resides in Abington. The statute allows a tax reduction of up to \$1,500.00 per tax year in exchange for volunteer services to the Town.

Article 15 - Local Option to Establish Designated Safety Zones: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions M.G.L. c. 90 section 17C which will allow the Board of Selectmen to establish a speed limit of 25 miles per hour on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business district in the town on any way that is not a state highway, or take any action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

► The Finance Committee defers to the recommendation of the Town Manager

TM Comments: By approving this article, the Town will be able to improve traffic and pedestrian safety issues in thickly settled neighborhoods and our business districts by reducing the speed limit to 25 mph. This law removes the need for state approval of any speed reduction and allows cities and towns to decide where to implement these traffic safety measures.

Article 16 – Matching Grant Funding: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer \$16,038.91 for the purpose of providing a match of 5% for a grant to purchase new portable radios for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

**The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article,
and to raise & appropriate \$16,038.91 to fund this article**

TM Comments: Approval of this article will allow the Town to qualify for a 95% grant which will pay provide over \$300,000 in grant funds to purchase new portable radios for our Fire Department.

Article 17 – Washington Street Bike Lane and Pedestrian Improvements: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$69,000 to pay for the costs of designing, estimating, engineering, and construction administration of the Washington Street Bike Lane and Pedestrian Improvements, or take any other action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

**The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article,
and to raise & appropriate \$69,000.00 to fund this article**

TM Comments: Approval of this article will allow the Town to submit an application for grant funding to pay for the construction costs and other associated costs of these improvements. This project is a segment of a larger town-wide project which is intended to create and expand bicycle and pedestrian links in our town, thus connecting and providing more residents with an opportunity to enjoy recreational opportunities at Ames Nowell State Park, Gliniewicz Way, the Memorial Field and Beaver Brook area, the Rail Trail, etc.

Article 18 – Police Department Separation from Civil Service: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Massachusetts General Court for special legislation, as set forth below, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition;

AN ACT EXEMPTING ALL UNIFORMED POSITIONS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF
THE TOWN OF ABINGTON FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all uniformed positions within the police department of the Town of Abington, including the positions of chief, deputy chief, captain, lieutenant, sergeant and patrolman shall be exempt from chapter 31 of the General Laws.

SECTION 2. This act shall not impair the civil service status of a person holding a position described in Section 1 on the effective date of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

By Town Manager

The Finance Committee voted to make no recommendation until more information becomes available.

TM Comments: This article is supported by the Police Union and the Police Chief, and is a part of the proposed new collective bargaining agreement (a/k/a union contract). It essentially allows Abington to recruit and hire qualified officers from a broader pool of candidates in the future, while also maintaining the current Civil Service status of our existing officers.

NOTE: The next 5 articles (#19-23) are all proposed amendments to our Zoning Bylaw. Per state statute, the Planning Board was required to hold a public hearing to review all of these proposed amendments and to then present the recommendation of the Planning Board for each article at our Town Meeting. Thus, for Articles 19 through 23, the Finance Committee's recommendation will be to DEFER to the Planning Board to make a recommendation to voters regarding each proposed zoning amendment (but the FinCom's recommendation to DEFER will not be printed under each article). Likewise, the Town Manager will also DEFER to the recommendations of the Planning Board.

Article 19 – Amendment to Zoning Bylaw §175-34C regarding sand and gravel operations:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw §175-34 entitled “Excavation of sand and gravel or other earth materials” by adding the following three new requirements after subsection 11 in §175-34C, and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly, with additions shown in **bold** and deletions shown in ~~striketrough~~, or take any action relative thereto:

C. The following conditions shall govern:

...

(11) A plan for re-grading all or parts of the slopes resulting from such excavation or fill shall be approved.

(12) Topsoil and/or soils with high organic content suitable to support vegetation shall not be removed from the site unless approved through the special permit process.

(13) Topsoil shall be spread across all disturbed areas at a depth sufficient to sustain vigorous vegetation growth upon completion of site disturbance activities.

(14) Where construction activities have compacted soils within vegetated or landscaped areas, measures shall be taken to restore natural soil permeability, such as rototilling of soils.

(~~12~~ 15) A plan for replacement of at least six inches of topsoil over all excavated, filled, or otherwise disturbed surfaces and seeding with a perennial cover crop, reseeded as necessary to assure uniform growth and soil surface stabilization shall be approved.

(~~13~~ 16) A plan for lighting shall be provided.

(~~14~~ 17) Proper provision for vehicular traffic, service roads, control of entrances and exits to adjacent roads shall be made.

(~~15~~ 18) Provision for a fence enclosing the excavation or quarry where any excavation or quarry will extend under original ground level or will have a depth of 10 feet or more or create a slope of more than one foot in two feet. Such fence shall be located a minimum of 10 feet or more from the edge of the excavation or quarry, and shall be six feet in height.

(~~16~~ 19) A plan for the ongoing cleanup of the site and adjacent streets.

By the Planning Board

The Planning Board recommends approval of this article as presented.

Article 20 – Amendment to Zoning Bylaw §175-43A to allow for reductions in parking lot pavement:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw §175-43 entitled “Space area requirement” in order to reduce impervious surfaces and update minimum design standards for parking spaces in §175-43A, with additions shown in **bold** and deletions shown in ~~strike through~~, or take any action relative thereto:

§ 175-43 Space area requirement.

A. Off-street parking spaces. All off-street parking area designs shall conform to the following **minimum** dimensional requirements:

(1) Space dimensions:

(a) Ten feet by 18 feet for perpendicular or angled spaces.

(b) Ten feet by 22 feet for parallel spaces.

(c) **The permit granting authority by majority vote may approve different parking space dimensions provided the minimum width will be nine feet.**

(2) Aisle widths:

(a) ~~Twenty-five~~ **Twenty-four** feet for two-way traffic and/or with perpendicular parking.

(b) Twelve feet for one-way traffic with angled or parallel parking.

(3) **Materials:**

When constructing parking spaces, the use of pervious materials or surfaces may be approved by the permit granting authority, particularly for low-use parking areas such as overflow, long-term, or minimally used parking areas.

By the Planning Board

The Planning Board recommends approval of this article as presented.

Article 21 – Amendment to Zoning Bylaw §175-50A to better define minimum standards for landscaped buffer strips bordering parking lots:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw §175-50 entitled “Visual relief for lots” to further define required buffer requirements in §175-50A, with additions shown in **bold** and deletions shown in ~~striketrough~~, or take any action relative thereto:

§175-50 Visual Relief for lots.

- A. Parking lots that abut public ways shall be separated therefrom by at least a ten-foot-**wide buffer** strip of **suitable** landscaping ~~which shall contain at least five trees per 200 linear feet that are at least three inches diameter at four feet above the ground.~~ **For each buffer strip which is more than 30 feet long, a street tree having a diameter at breast height (4.5 feet) of at least 3” shall be planted at a ratio of at least 1 tree per 30 feet of buffer strip length. A street tree shall not be placed within 20 feet of any street corner or in any location which may create a hazard, conflict with utilities, or impair sight lines for drivers or pedestrians, or as the number and location of such trees may otherwise be approved.** Parking lots that abut residential districts or existing residential uses shall also provide a minimum ten-foot landscaped buffer strip on the affected side yards. **Landscaping areas may be required or allowed to incorporate stormwater treatment measures to treat runoff from the adjacent parking areas.**

By the Planning Board

The Planning Board recommends approval of this article as presented.

Article 22 – Amendment to Zoning Bylaw §175-63 to allow for “green roofs” to help achieve stormwater management goals:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw §175-63 entitled “Surface water drainage” by adding the following language shown in **bold**, or take any action relative thereto:

§175-63 Surface water drainage.

All surface water drained from roofs, parking lots, streets, and other site features shall be disposed of in a safe and efficient manner and shall not create problems of water runoff or erosion on the site in question or on other sites. Insofar as possible, natural drainage courses, swales properly stabilized with plant materials or paving when necessary, and drainage impounding areas shall be utilized to dispose of water on the site through natural percolation. **Green roofs may be used on commercial, industrial, and similar construction for treatment of rooftop runoff, should appropriate site conditions and construction techniques allow for feasible implementation.**

By the Planning Board

The Planning Board recommends approval of this article as presented.

Article 23 – Amendment to Zoning Bylaw §175-77B(5)(k) and §175-65 to enhance the protection and preservation of mature trees pursuant to stormwater management goals:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw §175-77 entitled “Site plan review” and §175-65 entitled “Vegetation” in order to enhance the preservation of mature trees and encourage appropriate planting of new trees, with additions shown in **bold** and deletions shown in ~~striketrough~~, as follows:

Section 175-77B(5)(k) is hereby amended by deleting the existing wording in its entirety and replacing it with new wording, regarding information about open space and trees required to be shown on submitted site plans, as follows:

~~(k) The location of all open space including its intended use, natural trees and foliage to be maintained, specific new planting by size and location, and the organization or owner intended to own and maintain same.~~

(k) The location of all open space including its intended use, all proposed landscaping elements by size and location, and details required by Chapter 175-65.

and Section 175-65 is hereby amended by deleting the existing title and wording in its entirety and replacing it with a new title and wording, in order to enhance stormwater management goals by preserving mature trees and expanding tree planting requirements for submitted site plans and subdivision plans, as follows:

~~§ 175-65 Vegetation.~~

~~A. Natural tree coverage and other desirable natural foliage shall be preserved on all lots to the maximum extent possible.~~

~~B. Outside of areas of actual construction activity all trees of greater than five inches diameter at four feet above the ground should be preserved. If a lot is covered with mature trees of greater than five inches breast height diameter, they should not be thinned by more than 50%. In all residential areas, upon completion of construction, there shall be an average minimum of four trees per dwelling unit, at least two of which shall be on each lot or, in the case of multi-family residential, within 50 feet of each dwelling unit. Such trees shall be of a species suited to the soil and climate of the area, shall be in healthy condition, and shall be a minimum of 12 feet in height and 2 1/2 inches in diameter 18 inches above ground level. Such trees may be planted by the developer if existing trees cannot be saved.~~

§175-65 Vegetation and Preservation of Tree Canopy.

- A) Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to protect Abington's green canopy, help the Town mitigate the effects of climate change, keep Abington's roadways visually appealing, and meet the requirements of the Stormwater Permitting Authority's regulations, while providing applicants with appropriate and reasonable flexibility in their designs.
- B)** As part of the documents required for a site plan review application or a definitive subdivision application, and in order to fulfill stormwater management requirements limiting site runoff caused by the removal of trees, applicants shall file a document containing a survey of all trees greater than 6 inches in diameter at 4½ feet above ground level, and a map of the areas where proposed clearing activities will take place. Natural tree coverage and other desirable natural foliage shall be preserved on all lots to the maximum extent possible, except for areas where essential construction activity and the creation of reasonable yard areas will be taking place. All trees greater than 6 inches in diameter shall be indicated on all appropriate project documents.
- C)** The applicant shall plant trees at a ratio of 1 tree for every 3 trees of 6 inches of diameter or greater removed, and the trees shall be of a species suited to the soil and climate of the area, shall be in healthy condition, and shall be a minimum of 20 feet in height and 6 inches in diameter 4½ feet above ground level when mature.
- D)** In designing their landscaping plan, applicants may choose from one of the following options:
 - 1)** Street trees - In order to provide a uniform streetscape look, the developer shall plant trees parallel to the street line and approximately every 40 feet if the trees are between 12-25 feet at full maturity, or every 70 feet if the trees are in excess of 25 feet of height at full maturity. A list of acceptable trees shall be available at the Planning Board office. Streetscape trees must be planted no closer than 5 feet from the edge of pavement or utilities.
 - 2)** Custom Groves - The developer may opt to plant a minimum of 4 trees in a manner that provides additional canopy, a natural boundary between property lines, a grove-style landscaping feature, or other enhanced landscaping designs. The trees shall be at least 20 feet in height at full maturity.

The trees shall consist of a mix of varieties of appropriate native species or cultivars. A list of acceptable trees shall be available at the Planning Board office.

- 3) An alternative design that meets the spirit of this bylaw while also providing flexibility for the applicant based on topographical features, environmental needs, the location of utilities, or other factors that create a unique hardship.

- E) The permit granting authority shall review and vote whether to approve the landscaping plan as presented by the applicant if the landscaping plan meets the requirements of this bylaw.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

By the Planning Board

The Planning Board recommends approval of this article as presented.

Article 24 – Authorization of Preservation Restriction on Memorial Bridge at Island Grove: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant a perpetual historic preservation restriction, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 184, Sections 31-32, encumbering the structure known as the Memorial Bridge at Island Grove, and any adjacent land as may be necessary, as shown on Assessors Map 24, Lot 30 and Map 32, Lot 15, and as described in the deed dated July 28, 1909, and recorded in the Plymouth Registry of Deeds in Book 1107, Page 123, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by and through the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey such restriction on such terms and conditions, and for such consideration, as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, and to take all action and execute all documents necessary in connection therewith; or to take any other action relative thereto.

By Town Manager

**The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article as presented,
as it will help the Town to qualify for more state and/or federal grants
to help fund the renovation of this historical landmark.**

TM Comments: Approval of this article was recommended to assist the Town in its efforts to secure whatever grant funding may be available to help renovate and restore the Memorial Bridge at Island Grove, which was originally erected by residents of Abington in 1912 as a monument to Civil War veterans.

END of WARRANT



**Annual Town Elections
Saturday, April 29, 2023**

Polls will be open 8am – 6pm

**in the gymnasium of the Beaver Brook Elementary School
1 Ralph Hamlin Lane (off Washington Street)**

Questions? Call the Town Clerk's Office at 781-982-2112